



The President's Daily Brief

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16 June 1973

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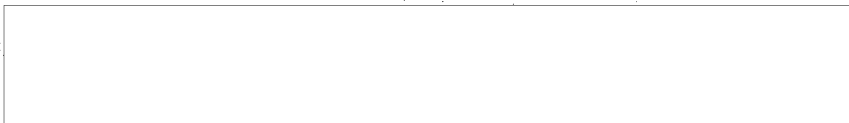
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

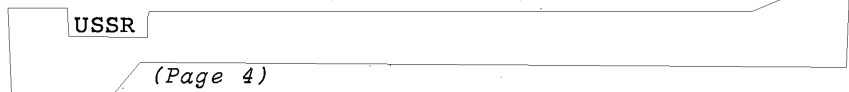
North Vietnam's limited military conscription effort this spring suggests that Hanoi does not currently envisage resumption of heavy fighting in the South, at least until after early autumn. (Page 1)

The Lebanese Government is becoming less able to control the fedayeen, in large part because of Syrian machinations. (Page 2)



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The West Europeans and Japanese are expressing concern over the possibility of US export controls on farm products. (Page 5)

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NORTH VIETNAM

Hanoi appears to have inducted an unusually small number of men into the military in March, April, and May. The total of conscription messages the North Vietnamese passed over their civil communications network during those months was the lowest since 1969, when they began a period of reduced military activity.

Earlier reports from Hanoi indicated that recruitment posters in the capital were being replaced by signs urging men to join "reconstruction brigades."

The limited scope of this year's spring recruitment suggests that Hanoi does not currently envisage resuming heavy fighting in the South, at least in the early part of the next dry season. In the past, a major spring recruitment drive has allowed the North Vietnamese at least three months to train the recruits before sending them south in the fall when the dry season begins.

A recent intercept indicates that a regular recruitment campaign will begin in July, but in previous years this drive has been less extensive than those held in the spring.

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LEBANON

The government's ability to maintain the upper hand with the fedayeen is diminishing. The most important reason is Syria's deliberate effort to influence--if not dominate--Lebanese politics in order to bring about a "closer alignment" with those of Syria.

Syrian economic pressure, help to the fedayeen, and threats of future measures against Lebanon have emboldened Lebanese leftists and Sunni Muslims to stir up domestic trouble for President Franjiyah. A boycott of parliament on June 12 by Sunni Muslim deputies--annoyed because they consider themselves underrepresented in the government--forced the resignation of Prime Minister Hafiz two days later. Though their discontent might ebb if they are given the posts they covet, a danger remains that some of them would line up with the fedayeen in the event of another round of fighting.

The fedayeen, meanwhile, are fortifying their camps and receiving new stocks of arms and ammunition smuggled from Syria. Fedayeen regulars and militia now in Lebanon already outnumber the Lebanese Army, and the imbalance would grow if Syria were to resume the infiltration of well-trained reinforcements. The fedayeen are far behind the army in firepower, morale, and organization, although they are trying to improve their military coordination and discipline.

President Franjiyah and his advisers still seem determined to enforce tighter controls on the fedayeen, but the combination of internal and external pressures could drive them to compromise. They are dismayed by the apathetic reaction of friendly Arab states

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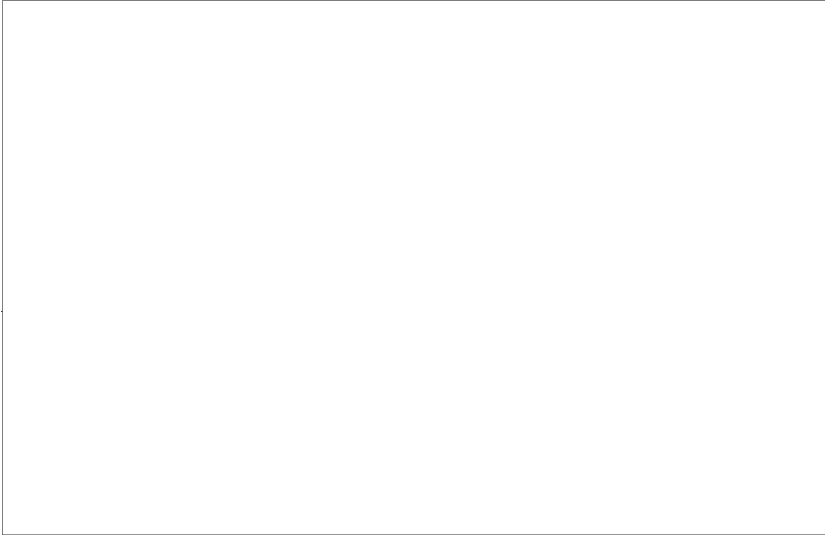
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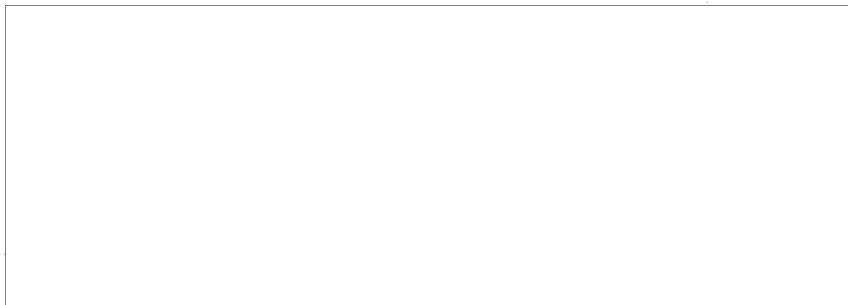
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WESTERN EUROPE - JAPAN - US

The West Europeans and the Japanese are beginning to express concern over the President's indication that he may seek export controls on farm products.

The EC Commissioner for Agriculture, Petrus Lardinois, has expressed anxiety to the US mission in Brussels about the effects of such restrictions on world supplies. He also asked how such action would affect the multilateral trade negotiations, where the Europeans had expected the US to press hard for improved access to foreign agricultural markets. He said that Community members are now likely to renew pressure for measures under the Common Agricultural Policy to increase Community production and alleviate the tight supply situation. In particular, Lardinois expects a renewed French request for a common agricultural policy for soybeans, with support mechanisms to encourage European, primarily French, production.

In Tokyo, government authorities expressed "shock" at the US position. They noted bitterly that they had recently encouraged a shift of Japanese trade to the US rather than to other suppliers as a way to cut down the US trade deficit with Japan. They presumably fear that US supplies may now be restricted.

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NOTES

South Vietnam: There has been continued fighting in some areas after the beginning of the new cease-fire, particularly in Kontum Province in the highlands and Chuong Thien in the delta. This action may be a spillover of earlier activity. The upsurge of fighting immediately preceding the cease-fire has not significantly changed either side's control over territory or people.

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Chile: Many striking copper workers have defied government efforts to stop their march into Santiago. Clashes involving opposition groups supporting the strikers, extreme leftists, and the police are likely to continue. The armed forces in Santiago were placed on full alert yesterday afternoon.

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